

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CARLOS VARGAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

TIM GARRETT, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:22-cv-00119-ART-CSD

ORDER

(ECF Nos. 10, 14)

This action began with a pro se civil-rights complaint filed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by state prisoner Plaintiff Carlos Vargas. (ECF No. 1-1). On July 11, 2022, the Court screened Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. (ECF No. 8). The screening order allowed the First Amendment retaliation and Fourteenth Amendment Due Process Clause claims to proceed against the institutional investigator at High Desert State Prison ("HDSP") who allegedly validated Plaintiff as a Sureno gang member and gave him a Security Threat Group ("STG") classification merely because he is Mexican, and placed Plaintiff in administrative segregation because he filed a grievance against the investigator about the validation and classification. (*Id.* at 7–9, 11–13). Because Plaintiff did not know the true name of the investigator, the Court granted him leave to amend to substitute a Doe defendant when he learned the investigator's true name. (*Id.* at 13–14). And the Court instructed that Plaintiff could discover the true name of the investigator through a subpoena duces tecum issued under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45. (*Id.* at 14–15).

Plaintiff has now filed a motion asking the Court to issue Rule 45 subpoenas directing two non-parties to produce records identifying the name of the investigator, among other things. (ECF No. 10). Because Plaintiff has not yet discovered the true name of the investigator, he also moves for a 90-day extension of time to file a second amended complaint. (ECF No. 14). For the reasons discussed below, the Court grants in part the motion to issue Rule 45 subpoenas and grants the motion to extend time.

1       **I.       DISCUSSION**


2           “A command to produce documents, electronically stored information, or tangible  
3 things” in a subpoena duces tecum served under Rule 45 “requires the responding person  
4 to permit the inspection copying, testing, or sampling of the materials” requested. Fed. R.  
5 Civ. P. 45(a)(1)(D). Rule 45 directs that the party responsible for issuing and serving a  
6 subpoena “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a  
7 person subject to the subpoena.” *Id.* at (d)(1). “And the Rule provides that “[t]he Court for  
8 the district where compliance is required must enforce this duty and impose an  
9 appropriate sanction . . . on a party or attorney who fails to comply.” *Id.*

10          Plaintiff seeks a subpoena requiring the Nevada Department of Corrections  
11 (“NDOC”) Case Records Manager and Lovelock Correctional Center (“LCC”) Warden Tim  
12 Garrett to produce: (1) documents identifying the name of the Institutional Investigator at  
13 HDSP who in 2013 validated Plaintiff as a Sureno gang member; (2) documents  
14 identifying the name of the Correctional Casework Specialist at HDSP who in 2013  
15 entered into Plaintiff’s I-file, C-file, and the Nevada Offender Tracking Information System  
16 (“NOTIS”) that he had been validated as a Sureno gang member; (3) NDOC forms 1597  
17 and 1598 validating and notifying Plaintiff of his STG classification; (4) the 2013 Incident  
18 Report generated in NOTIS validating Plaintiff’s STG classification; and (5) HDSP  
19 Caseworker notes or entries for July, August, and September 2013. Plaintiff contends  
20 that these documents will permit him to discover the true names of the Doe defendants  
21 who committed the alleged violations and allow him to file a second amended complaint  
22 naming them. Plaintiff has submitted a document showing that his effort to obtain the  
23 names of the investigator and caseworker using an inmate request form were rebuffed.  
24 (ECF No. 11). He argues that the NDOC’s administrative regulations provide that the  
25 Correctional Case Records Manager “is the legal custodian of records for the department  
26 of corrections” and “wardens or facility managers are responsible for being the legal  
27 custodians of institutional inmate records.” (ECF No. 10 at 3).

1 This case is still in the screening stage and cannot proceed until Plaintiff discovers  
 2 the true name of the investigator that the Court has permitted claims to proceed against.  
 3 The Court has permitted Plaintiff leave to file a second amended complaint that  
 4 substitutes the true name of any Doe defendant if he discovers it. The Court finds that  
 5 Plaintiff has shown good cause why subpoenas should issue directing the NDOC Case  
 6 Records Manager and LCC Warden Tim Garrett to produce documents identifying the  
 7 names of the investigator and caseworker whom Plaintiff describes in his motion. Plaintiff  
 8 also seeks the production of specific documents: his I-file; C-file; NOTIS entries; NDOC  
 9 forms 1597 and 1598; and HDSP caseworker notes for July, August, and September  
 10 2013. The Court recognizes that all or part of these documents could contain the name  
 11 of the Doe defendants that Plaintiff seeks. But Plaintiff has not shown good cause to  
 12 command production of all these documents and in their entirety at this time.

13 The Court will therefore grant in part and deny in part Plaintiff's motion to issue  
 14 subpoenas. The Court will amend both subpoenas that Plaintiff submitted with his motion  
 15 to state that the recipient is commanded to produce:

16 Documents identifying (1) the name of the Institutional Investigator at High  
 17 Desert State Prison ("HDSP") who in 2013 validated Carlos Vargas as a  
 18 Sureno gang member; and (2) the name of the Correctional Casework  
 19 Specialist at HDSP who in 2013 entered into Vargas's I-file, C-file, and the  
 20 Nevada Offender Tracking Information System ("NOTIS") that he had been  
 validated as a Sureno gang member. The information sought could be in  
 caseworker notes or entries for July, August, or September 2013; NDOC  
 forms 1597 and 1598 from 2013; an Incident Report from 2013; NOTIS  
 entries from 2013; or entries in Vargas's I-file or C-file from 2013.

21 The Court will also amend the subpoenas to state that production is to occur  at Lovelock  
 22 Correctional Center, or the NDOC facility where Plaintiff is housed on the production date,  
 23 45 days from the later of service or acceptance of service. And because Plaintiff has  
 24 shown good cause to extend the deadline to file a second amended complaint by 90 days,  
 25 the Court will grant his motion for that relief.

## 26 **II. CONCLUSION**

27 It is therefore ordered that the motion to issue Rule 45 subpoenas duces tecum  
 28 (ECF No. 10) is granted in part and denied in part.

1 It is further ordered that the motion for extension of time (ECF No. 14) is granted.  
2 Plaintiff Carlos Vargas has **until January 23, 2023**, to file a second amended complaint  
3 consistent with the Court's July 11, 2022, screening order.

4 The Clerk of the Court is directed to: (1) issue the two subpoenas and their exhibits  
5 that are attached to this order and (2) electronically serve a copy of this order and copies  
6 of both subpoenas and their exhibits on the Office of the Attorney General of the State of  
7 Nevada by adding the Attorney General of the State of Nevada to the docket sheet. This  
8 does not indicate acceptance of service.

9 It is further ordered that the Attorney General's Office must file a notice **by**  
10 **November 1, 2022**, advising the Court and Plaintiff whether it accepts service of the  
11 subpoenas on behalf of the Nevada Department of Correction's Case Records Manager  
12 and Lovelock Correctional Center Warden Tim Garrett.

13 DATED: October 25, 2022

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15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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AO 85B (Rev. 02/14) Subpoena to Produce Documents, Information, or Objects or to Permit Inspection of Premises in a Civil Action

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

CARLOS VARGAS

Plaintiff

v.

TIM GARRETT, WARDEN

Defendant

Civil Action No. 3:22-cv-119-ART-CSD

SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS, INFORMATION, OR OBJECTS  
OR TO PERMIT INSPECTION OF PREMISES IN A CIVIL ACTIONTo: WARDEN TIM GARRETT, LOVELOCK CORRECTIONAL CENTER

(Name of person to whom this subpoena is directed)

☒ **Production:** YOU ARE COMMANDED to produce at the time, date, and place set forth below the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects, and to permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of the material See Exhibit A attached hereto.

Place: Lovelock Correctional Center or the NDOC facility where Plaintiff is housed on the production date.	Date and Time: 45 days from the later of service or acceptance of service.
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☐ **Inspection of Premises:** YOU ARE COMMANDED to permit entry onto the designated premises, land, or other property possessed or controlled by you at the time, date, and location set forth below, so that the requesting party may inspect, measure, survey, photograph, test, or sample the property or any designated object or operation on it.

Place:	Date and Time:
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The following provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 are attached – Rule 45(c), relating to the place of compliance; Rule 45(d), relating to your protection as a person subject to a subpoena; and Rule 45(e) and (g), relating to your duty to respond to this subpoena and the potential consequences of not doing so.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CLERK OF COURT

OR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney's signature

The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the attorney representing (name of party) \_\_\_\_\_, who issues or requests this subpoena, are:

## Notice to the person who issues or requests this subpoena

If this subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things or the inspection of premises before trial, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party in this case before it is served on the person to whom it is directed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(4).

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE***(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)*I received this subpoena for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.☐ I served the subpoena by delivering a copy to the named person as follows: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or☐ I returned the subpoena unexecuted because: \_\_\_\_\_

Unless the subpoena was issued on behalf of the United States, or one of its officers or agents, I have also  
tendered to the witness the fees for one day's attendance, and the mileage allowed by law, in the amount of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

## **Exhibit A**

Documents identifying (1) the name of the Institutional Investigator at High Desert State Prison (“HDSP”) who in 2013 validated Carlos Vargas as a Sureno gang member; and (2) the name of the Correctional Casework Specialist at HDSP who in 2013 entered into Vargas’s I-file, C-file, and the Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (“NOTIS”) that he had been validated as a Sureno gang member. The information sought could be in caseworker notes or entries for July, August, or September 2013; NDOC forms 1597 and 1598 from 2013; an Incident Report from 2013; NOTIS entries from 2013; or entries in Vargas’s I-file or C-file from 2013.



AO 88B (Rev. 02/14) Subpoena to Produce Documents, Information, or Objects or to Permit Inspection of Premises in a Civil Action

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

CARLOS VARGAS

Plaintiff

v.

TIM GARRETT, WARDEN

Defendant

Civil Action No. 322 CV00119-ART-CSDSUBPOENA TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS, INFORMATION, OR OBJECTS  
OR TO PERMIT INSPECTION OF PREMISES IN A CIVIL ACTIONTo: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CASE RECORDS MANAGER

(Name of person to whom this subpoena is directed)

☒ **Production:** YOU ARE COMMANDED to produce at the time, date, and place set forth below the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects, and to permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of the material: See Exhibit A attached hereto.

**Place:** Lovelock Correctional Center or the NDOC facility where Plaintiff is housed on the production date.

**Date and Time:** 45 days from the later of service or acceptance of service.

☐ **Inspection of Premises:** YOU ARE COMMANDED to permit entry onto the designated premises, land, or other property possessed or controlled by you at the time, date, and location set forth below, so that the requesting party may inspect, measure, survey, photograph, test, or sample the property or any designated object or operation on it.

**Place:**

**Date and Time:**

The following provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 are attached – Rule 45(c), relating to the place of compliance; Rule 45(d), relating to your protection as a person subject to a subpoena; and Rule 45(e) and (g), relating to your duty to respond to this subpoena and the potential consequences of not doing so.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CLERK OF COURT

OR

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Attorney's signature

The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the attorney representing (name of party) \_\_\_\_\_, who issues or requests this subpoena, are:

## Notice to the person who issues or requests this subpoena

If this subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things or the inspection of premises before trial, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party in this case before it is served on the person to whom it is directed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(4).



Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)*

I received this subpoena for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I served the subpoena by delivering a copy to the named person as follows: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I returned the subpoena unexecuted because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Unless the subpoena was issued on behalf of the United States, or one of its officers or agents, I have also  
tendered to the witness the fees for one day's attendance, and the mileage allowed by law, in the amount of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Exhibit A**

Documents identifying (1) the name of the Institutional Investigator at High Desert State Prison (“HDSP”) who in 2013 validated Carlos Vargas as a Sureno gang member; and (2) the name of the Correctional Casework Specialist at HDSP who in 2013 entered into Vargas’s I-file, C-file, and the Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (“NOTIS”) that he had been validated as a Sureno gang member. The information sought could be in caseworker notes or entries for July, August, or September 2013; NDOC forms 1597 and 1598 from 2013; an Incident Report from 2013; NOTIS entries from 2013; or entries in Vargas’s I-file or C-file from 2013.